Please cancel Claims 1 through 9, 14, 18, 19, 21, 22, and 34 through 51 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 10 through 13, 15 through 17, 20, and 23 through 33 and add Claims 52 through 64 to read, as follows.

Claims 1 through 9. **(Canceled)**

10. **(Currently Amended)** An image recording apparatus that can discharge a printing result of a printing job received from a data processing apparatus to a plurality of sheet discharge ports, said image recording apparatus [[port]] comprising:

registering means for registering a discrimination name of each of [[said]] the plurality of sheet discharge ports [[port]] that is instructed to be registered by the [[said]] data processing apparatus;

first notifying means for notifying the [[said]] data processing apparatus of the discrimination name of each of [[said]] the plurality of sheet discharge ports [[port]] registered by said registering means in accordance with a request from the [[said]] data processing apparatus;

preparing means for preparing page information for a plurality of discrimination names of a predetermined unit of printing data included in one printing job by the [[said]] predetermined unit of printing data based on the notification of said first notifying means;

retrieving means for retrieving a sheet discharge port to which a discrimination name identical with a plurality of discrimination names of a predetermined unit of printing data included in the [[said]] one printing job; [[and]]

controlling means for instructing the discharge of the number of sheet discharge copies for each sheet discharge port retrieved by said retrieving means and each sheet discharge address designated by the [[said]] predetermined unit of printing data with respect to each piece of page information prepared by said preparing means; means.

storing means for storing a state of each of the plurality of sheet discharge ports to be observed by observing the state of each of the plurality of sheet discharge ports;

second notifying means for notifying the data processing apparatus of a state of an abnormal sheet discharge port if an abnormality in the state of each sheet discharge port stored in said storing means exists; and

third notifying means for notifying the data processing apparatus of information of the sheet discharge port to which the printing jot is outputted at the time of finishing processing of the printing job.

11. **(Currently Amended)** An image recording apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein said registering means registers is for registering a discrimination name of each of [[said]] the plurality of sheet discharge ports instructed to be registered by the [[said]] data processing apparatus and a [[the]] number of members belonging to the discrimination name, and said first notifying means notifies the is for notifying said data processing apparatus of the discrimination name for each of the [[said]] sheet discharge ports registered by said registering means and the number of members belonging to the

discrimination name in accordance with a request from the [[said]] data processing

apparatus.

12. **(Currently Amended)** An image recording apparatus according to Claim 10,

wherein the [[said]] predetermined unit of printing data includes a page unit of printing

data.

13. **(Currently Amended)** An image recording apparatus according to Claim 10,

wherein the [[said]] printing data includes a plurality of printing data prepared by identical

or different applications.

14. **(Canceled)**

15. **(Currently Amended)** An image recording apparatus according to Claim 10,

[[14,]] wherein said storing means stores a loading status, a discrimination name, a using

status and the like of each sheet discharge port for each of the plurality of sheet discharge

ports. port.

16. **(Currently Amended)** An image recording apparatus according to Claim 10,

wherein the [[said]] plurality of sheet discharge ports include a plurality of sheet discharge

ports provided in an image recording apparatus main body and a plurality of sheet

discharge port provided in an optional apparatus to be connected to the [[an]] image

recording apparatus main body.

17. **(Currently Amended)** An image recording apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the [[said]] discrimination name is information for representing an owner using a [[the]] sheet discharge port including a user name, a group name and a department name.

18. **(Canceled)**

19. **(Canceled)**

20. **(Currently Amended)** A controlling method of an image recording apparatus that can discharge a printing result of a printing job received from a data processing apparatus to a plurality of sheet discharge ports comprising the steps of:

registering a discrimination name of each of the [[said]] sheet discharge ports that is instructed to be registered by the [[said]] data processing apparatus;

notifying the [[said]] data processing apparatus of the registered discrimination name of each of the plurality of [[said]] sheet discharge ports in accordance with a request from the [[said]] data processing apparatus;

preparing page information for a plurality of discrimination names of a predetermined unit of printing data included in one printing job by the [[said]] predetermined unit of printing data based on the notification;

retrieving a sheet discharge port to which a discrimination name identical with a plurality of discrimination names of a predetermined unit of printing data included in the [[said]] one printing job is registered; [[and]]

instructing the discharge of a [[the]] number of sheet discharge copies for each of

the plurality of sheet discharge ports [[port]] retrieved by said retrieving steps means and

each sheet discharge address designated by the [[said]] predetermined unit of printing data

with respect to each piece of the prepared page information; information.

storing a state of each of the sheet discharge ports to be observed by observing the

state of each of the plurality of sheet discharge ports;

notifying the data processing apparatus of a state of an abnormal sheet discharge

port if an abnormality in the state of each of the sheet discharge ports stored in the storing

step exists; and

notifying the data processing apparatus of information of a sheet discharge port to

which the printing job is outputted at the time of finishing processing of the printing job.

21. **(Canceled)**

22. **(Canceled)**

23. **(Currently Amended)** A computer readable storage medium storing a

program for causing an image recording apparatus that can discharge a printing result of a

printing job received from a data processing apparatus to a plurality of sheet discharge

ports to execute the steps of:

registering a discrimination name of each of the plurality of [[said]] sheet discharge

ports that is instructed to be registered by the [[said]] data processing apparatus;

notifying said data processing apparatus of the registered discrimination name of

each of the plurality of [[said]] sheet discharge ports in accordance with a request from the

[[said]] data processing apparatus;

preparing page information for a plurality of discrimination names of a

predetermined unit of printing data included in one printing job by the [[said]]

predetermined unit of printing data based on the notification;

retrieving a sheet discharge port to which a discrimination name identical with a

plurality of discrimination names of a predetermined unit of printing data included in the

[[said]] one printing job is registered; [[and]]

instructing the discharge of the number of sheet discharge copies for each of the

plurality of sheet discharge ports [[port]] retrieved by said retrieving step means and each

sheet discharge address designated by the [[said]] predetermined unit of printing data with

respect to each piece of the prepared page information; information:

storing a state of each of the plurality of sheet discharge ports to be observed by

observing the state of each of the plurality of sheet discharge ports;

notifying the data processing apparatus of the state of an abnormal sheet discharge

port if an abnormality in the state of each of the plurality of sheet discharge ports stored in

the storing means step exists; and

notifying the data processing apparatus of information of a sheet discharge port to

which said printing job is outputted at the time of finishing processing of the printing job.

24. **(Currently Amended)** A data processing apparatus that can transmit a

printing job to an image recording apparatus having a plurality of storing units or an image

recording apparatus to which an optional apparatus having a plurality of storing units can be ~~connected, said data apparatus comprising:~~ connected comprising;

first transmitting means for transmitting first data for requesting management information including information indicating a discrimination name of each storing unit of said plurality of storing units managed by an external storage apparatus;

obtaining means for obtaining the [[said]] management information from the [[said]] external storage apparatus outputted in response to the transmission of the [[said]] first data;

display controlling means for causing to display a screen that is prepared based on the [[said]] management information obtained by the [[said]] obtaining means for designating a distribution method of printing data to the [[said]] plurality of storing units; and

second transmitting means for transmitting second data including an instruction to cause the [[said]] image recording apparatus to operate to distribute printing data to the [[said]] plurality of storing units by a distribution method in accordance with an instruction from a user inputted via the [[said]] screen.

25. **(Currently Amended)** A data processing apparatus according to Claim 24, wherein the [[said]] display controlling means causes to display a screen that can designate a desired distribution method out of a plurality of distribution method candidates, and said second transmitting means generates the [[said]] second data including an instruction distinguishing the [[said]] plurality of distribution methods from each other and transmits the data to the [[said]] image recording apparatus.

26. **(Currently Amended)** A data processing apparatus according to Claim 25, wherein the [[said]] plurality of distribution methods include a first distribution method for distributing printing data by one page unit to respective distribution object storing units and a second distribution method for distributing printing data by one file unit to respective distribution object storing units, and said second transmitting means generates the [[said]] second data including an instruction distinguishing the [[said]] plurality of distribution method including the [[said]] first distribution method and the [[said]] second distribution method each other and transmits the data to the [[said]] image recording apparatus.

27. **(Currently Amended)** A data processing apparatus according to Claim 24, wherein said second transmitting means transmits printing data including a plurality of files as one printing job together with the [[said]] second data collectively to the [[said]] image recording apparatus.

28. **(Currently Amended)** A data processing apparatus according to Claim 27, wherein the [[said]] plurality of files are files respectively prepared by different sorts of application software.

29. **(Currently Amended)** A data processing apparatus according to Claim 27, wherein the [[said]] plurality of distribution methods include a first distribution method for distributing printing data by one page unit to respective distribution object storing units, a second distribution method for distributing printing data by one file unit to respective distribution object storing units, and a third distribution method for distributing printing

data by one job unit consisting of printing data including a plurality of files to respective distribution object storing units, and said second transmitting means generates the [[said]] second data including an instruction distinguishing the [[said]] plurality of distribution methods including the [[said]] first, second and third distribution methods each other and transmits the data to the [[said]] image recording apparatus.

30. **(Currently Amended)** A data processing apparatus according to Claim 24, wherein the [[said]] second data includes data for specifying printing data to be distributed for each distribution object storing unit.

31. **(Currently Amended)** A data processing apparatus according to Claim 30, wherein the [[said]] image recording apparatus makes printing data to be distributed to each distribution object storing unit different based on the [[said]] second data from said data processing apparatus.

32. **(Currently Amended)** A controlling method of a system having a data processing apparatus that can transmit printing job to an image recording apparatus including having a plurality of storing units or an image recording apparatus to which an optional devices including having a plurality of storing units can be connected comprising:

a first step for transmitting a first data for requesting management information including information indicating a discrimination name of each storing unit of the [[said]] plurality of storing units managed by a remote external storage apparatus;

a second step of obtaining said management information from the [[said]] external

storage apparatus outputted in response to the transmission of the [[said]] first data;

a third step of causing to display a screen to be generated based on the [[said]]

management information obtained by said second step for designating a distribution

method of printing data to said plurality of storing units; and

a fourth step of transmitting second data including an instruction to cause the

[[said]] image recording apparatus to distribute printing data to the [[said]] plurality of

storing units by a distribution method in accordance with an instruction from a user

inputted via the [[said]] screen to the [[said]] image recording apparatus.

33. **(Currently Amended)** A computer readable storage medium storing a

program for causing an data processing apparatus that can transmit a printing job to an

image recording apparatus including having a plurality of storing units or an image

recording apparatus to which an optional apparatus including having a plurality of storing

units can be connected to execute the steps of:

a first step for transmitting a first data for requesting management information

including information indicating a discrimination name of each storing unit of the [[said]]

plurality of storing units managed by a remote external storage apparatus;

a second step of obtaining said management information from the [[said]] external

storage apparatus outputted in response to the [[said]] command data;

a third step of causing to display a screen to be generated based on the [[said]]

management information obtained by said second step for designating a distribution

method of printing data to the [[said]] plurality of storing units; and

a fourth step of transmitting second data including an instruction to cause the [[said]] image recording apparatus to distribute printing data to the [[said]] plurality of storing units by a distribution method in accordance with an instruction from a user inputted via the [[said]] screen to the [[said]] image recording apparatus.

Claims 34 through 51. **(Canceled)**

--52. **(New)** A controlling method according to Claim 20, wherein the registering means registers a discrimination name of each of the sheet discharge ports instructed to be registered by the data processing apparatus and the number of members belonging to the discrimination name, and the first notifying means step notifies the data processing apparatus of the discrimination name for each of the sheet discharge ports registered by the registering means and the number of members belonging to the discrimination name in accordance with a request from the data processing apparatus.

53. **(New)** A controlling method according to Claim 20, wherein the predetermined unit of printing data includes a page unit of printing data.

54. **(New)** A controlling method according to Claim 20, wherein the printing data includes a plurality of printing data prepared by identical or different applications.

55. **(New)** A controlling method according to Claim 20, wherein the storing means stores a loading status, a discrimination name, a using status and the like of each sheet discharge port for each sheet discharge port.

56. **(New)** A controlling method according to Claim 20, wherein the plurality of sheet discharge ports include a plurality of sheet discharge ports provided in an image recording apparatus main body and a plurality of sheet discharge port provided in an optional apparatus to be connected to an image recording apparatus main body.

57. **(New)** A controlling method according to Claim 20, wherein the discrimination name is information for representing an owner using the sheet discharge port including a user name, a group name and a department name.

58. **(New)** A controlling method according to Claim 32, wherein said third step causes a display of screen that can designate a desired distribution method out of a plurality of distribution method candidates, and the fourth step generates the second data including an instruction distinguishing the plurality of distribution methods from each other and transmits the data to the image recording apparatus.

59. **(New)** A controlling method according to Claim 58, wherein the plurality of distribution methods include a first distribution method for distributing printing data by one page unit to respective distribution object storing units and a second distribution method for distributing printing data by one file unit to respective distribution object

storing units, and the fourth step generates the second data including an instruction distinguishing the plurality of distribution method including the first distribution method and the second distribution method each other and transmits the data to the image recording apparatus.

60. **(New)** A controlling method according to Claim 32, wherein the fourth step transmits printing data including a plurality of files as one printing job together with the second data collectively to the image recording apparatus.

61. **(New)** A controlling method according to Claim 60, wherein the plurality of files are files respectively prepared by different sorts of application software.

62. **(New)** A controlling method according to Claim 60, wherein the plurality of distribution methods include a first distribution method for distributing printing data by one page unit to respective distribution object storing units, a second distribution method for distributing printing data by one file unit to respective distribution object storing units, and a third distribution method for distributing printing data by one job unit consisting of printing data including a plurality of files to respective distribution object storing units, and the second transmitting means generates the second data including an instruction distinguishing the plurality of distribution methods including the first, second and third distribution methods each other and transmits the data to the image recording apparatus.

63. **(New)** A controlling method according to Claim 32, wherein the second data includes data for specifying printing data to be distributed for each distribution object storing unit.

64. **(New)** A controlling method according to Claim 63, wherein the image recording apparatus makes printing data to be distributed to each distribution object storing unit different based on the second data from the data processing apparatus.--